

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of: Volker ALBRECHT, et al.
Serial No.: To Be Assigned
Filed: Herewith as national phase of International Patent
Application PCT/EP2004/007359, filed 6 July 2004
For: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PREDICTING A
FAILURE FREQUENCY**

Mail Stop: PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 10, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, Applicants hereby make of record the documents listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 Form (1 page) for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. While the references are being submitted herewith, some or all of the references may not constitute prior art under the U.S. patent laws.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b), before the mailing date of a First Office Action. Therefore, no fee is believed due.

In the event any additional fee is due in connection with this response or if any fee has been overpaid, the deficiency or overpayment should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

100-204257

710.1035

1AP20 Rec'd PTO/USPTO 10 JAN 2006

It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the accompanying PTO-1449 form be considered and made of record. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are patentable over all of the references made of record at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By 
William C. Gehris, Reg. No. 38,156

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940

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| FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80) | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 710.1035 | 101564257 APPLICATION NO. To be assigned | |
| LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | APPLICANT Volker ALBRECHT, et al. | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE Herewith | GROUP To be assigned | |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|-------------------|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| | A01 | US 2001/0023376 | Sep. 20, 2001 | Uchida et al. | 700 | 101 | |
| | A02 | | | | | | |
| | A03 | | | | | | |
| | A04 | | | | | | |
| | A05 | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | TRANSLATION | YES | NO |
|--|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------|-----------|--|-----|----|
| | A06 | EP 1 146 468 | Oct. 17, 2001 | EP – Europe | | | In English | | |
| | A07 | JP 10-107793 | Apr. 24, 1998 | JP – Japan | | | JPO computer translation, See specification | | |
| | A08 | WO 00/72212 | Nov. 30, 2000 | WO – WIPO | | | In English | | |
| | A09 | DE 198 48 094 | Apr. 20, 2000 | DE – Germany | | | See specification | | |
| | A10 | EP 1 160 712 | Dec. 5, 2001 | EP – Europe | | | In English | | |
| | A11 | WO 01/26005 | Apr. 12, 2001 | WO – WIPO | | | In English | | |
| | A12 | DE 197 51 273 | May 27, 1999 | DE – Germany | | | See specification, English abstract | | |

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | A13 | R. Bothwell et al., Reliability evaluation: A field experience from Motorola's cellular base transceiver system, Reliability and Maintainability Symposium, 1996 Proceedings. International Symposium on Product Quality and Integrity., Annual Las Vegas, NV, USA, 22-25 Jan. 1996, IEEE, US, 22 January 1996, pages 348 to 359, XP010160856, ISBN 0-7803-3112-5 |
| | A14 | E.K. Melnick et al., R&M Design Influence from Spreadsheet Analysis, 1988 Proceedings Annual Reliability and Maintainability, 26 January 1988, pages 336 to 339, XP010072459 |
| | A15 | P. Wirkstrom et al., Reliability, availability and maintainability (RAM) of high power variable speed drive systems (VSDS), Petroleum and Chemical Industry Conference, 1998, Industry Applications Society 45 th Annual Indianapolis, IN, USA, 28 - 30 September 1998, New York, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 28 September 1998, pages 139 to 148, XP010312472, ISBN 0-7803-4897-4 |
| | A16 | T. Elmore, Case study: modular ate system design, Conference Proceedings Article, 18 September 2000, pages 576 – 583, XP010522042 |

| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.